Legislative Reform project

In New South Wales (NSW) there are numerous Acts, Regulations, policies, standards and directions, which explicitly or implicitly engage government departments and agencies in the creation, maintenance and/or publication of address data.

The Comprehensive Property Addressing System (CPAS) program, Legislative Reform project aims to set the foundation for a uniform approach to addressing in NSW. It is also to meet community needs in relation to accurate, consistent and logical address information. The project will undertake legislative reform to:

- strengthen address related legislation in ensuring consistent, standard based, timely and accurate address creation, maintenance and distribution for NSW
- explicitly detail the rights and responsibilities of address custodians and users and
- establish and maintain a single source of truth address dataset for NSW.

Why is legislative reform necessary?

Analysis of the legislation, particularly with regard to the ability for the government to create, maintain, disseminate and administer address, shows:

- gaps and contradictions in the legislation
- no one entity allocated responsibility, custodianship or ownership for address as a whole product i.e. address number, road name and locality name
- multiple entities require the address as a whole product for management and tracking purposes
- distribution of data is haphazard and distributed through multiple disparate systems
- administration of data is irregular and inconsistent.
Requirements

The NSW State Plan 2021 aims to rebuild the economy, return quality services, renovate infrastructure, strengthen local environment and communities and restore accountability to government. Customer data, including address, is recorded every time people or businesses register, enrol for services or update their information.

The Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney predicts that by 2031 Sydney will have around 1.3 million additional people and an additional 1.2 million addresses created across NSW. Addresses are fundamental to the planning and delivery of essential services including health, education, public order and safety and transport. Purpose specific address legislation, as part of a program of work to improve NSW address information, policies, practices and systems, will improve the quality of life of the people of NSW and the capacity of Government to plan and deliver quality services.

A wide range of government and community services rely on accurate addressing. Critical emergency services such as Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, SES and Rural Fire Service and other government departments rely on logical addresses in order to provide quality services to the community. Other services and organisations such as energy, telecommunication and insurance providers also depend upon reliable addressing for all sites requiring their services.

Benefits

Benefits of purpose specific legislation to regulate addressing activities in NSW include:

- clarity and support for authority, roles and responsibilities in the production, allocation and management of addresses, and providing associated services
- supported authority to achieve standards compliant unambiguous addressing on all sites requiring delivery of services, including sites on private roads
- support for the timely production and communication of addresses for new developments.

Benefits of a coordinated program of work which includes legislative reform to improve NSW address information, policies, practices and systems include:

- unambiguous addressing of all new sites requiring delivery of services, including sites on private roads
- timely establishment and communication of new road and locality names and addresses for new developments
- better planned and coordinated services including emergency responses, utility services, government services generally and financial and other services
- enablement of efficient enrolment for services and delivery of services for households and businesses, and more efficient customer as assets management by utilities, all levels of government and the economy generally
- framework to enable the identification of common customers in the customer and service delivery datasets of different agencies
- framework to enable the analysis of government and government funded services and provide an evidence base for better targeted, better integrated and more effective future service delivery
- elimination of red tape and associated inefficiency costs:
  - to the community through improved address validation when applying for services
  - to local government through elimination of duplicated responsibilities and activities and
  - to businesses and government through better maintenance of accurate customer and asset address information
- maximised location related resource allocation through reliable address information being captured once and used many times.

More information

For more information on the CPAS program please contact the Program Manager on T: 02 8236 7136 or email the Communications team E: cpas@lpi.nsw.gov.au

© Crown in right of New South Wales through Land and Property Information, 2014.
This copyright work is licensed under a Creative Commons Australia Attribution 3.0 licence, http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/au

Author: Land and Property Information